



The

# GARZETTE

October, 1995

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

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## The PRESIDENTS PEN

by Howard Gould, W4NVF

Are you having fun with your hobby? That is my question this month. When the hobby is not interesting to you anymore it's time to take a break and relax for a bit. This is normal and should not be taken as heavy as you might think. Take it from a pro in this radio thing, I am into my 39th year as a ham. Like everything in life, this hobby we have is open for a prime let down to most of us at one time or another. Our everyday moods and attitudes are reflected in what we say and how we react to one another's comments. The band conditions may be terrible and we can not get into the machine as we normally do. Our rig is not working right and we don't know what's wrong with it. Our wife or girl friend and family are saying we spend too much time at this radio thing. Someone swiped our best rig from the car and we are kicking ourselves in the behind for being so stupid. Or the rig went up in smoke and

it's going to be a big bill to get it fixed. Anyone of these can set us off and the end result is that we are not going to be in a very good mood. This would be a good time to take a break and get back to reality with the rest of the world and catch up with what me may have missed in current events. After you get your senses back, pick up the radio again and have a ball.

Many thanks to Ike, KE4GYM our new Editor. I had a couple of other volunteers and wish to acknowledge their offers. It's nice to know that we have good talent out there waiting to pitch in when the going gets rough. Ike will do a bang up job I know as I have worked with him over a year and a half now as the club Secretary and he has done an outstanding job for us. Good luck Ike and here's wishing you the best in the months ahead.

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## From the Editor ....

Yes it's true, Dean Matthews, AD4OD who was GARZETTE editor for over two years has stepped down. After some consideration, I contacted Howie and volunteered for the job. You'll find the layout of the GARZETTE unchanged for the most part for this edition and it will most likely stay that way for the one or two editions. After I get comfortable in the job, I'll be moving the newsletter to a different software package and will make some changes in the layout to give it my "signature".

I look forward to working with the GARS membership to continue the tradition established by Dean in putting out a first class newsletter each and every month.

If you have an article you would like to have published you can reach me via email at [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net) or you can post the message to the GARS conference of the SA BBS as an attachment. Please address the message to Ike Chapman and set the security to receiver only. And if you don't have access to either of those methods call me and let me know and I'll make arrangements to get the article from you.

Thanks,  
Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

Carlton McPherson,

WA4ZUW

GARS

HAM of the MONTH

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

The GARS Ham of the Month is Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW. Carlton is a real rarity in the Atlanta and Gwinnett County area in that he was born and raised and with the exception of his time in the military, has lived all of his life in this area.

Originally from Alpharetta, just across the Fulton County Line, Carlton moved to the Duluth area very early. All of his schooling was in the Duluth area. The year that Carlton graduated from Duluth High School was the last year that all twelve grades were in the same building. Carlton's primary interest during these years was sports. He played basketball and baseball.

Shortly after he graduated from high school, Carlton entered military service in the Air Force where he spent the next four years. His basic training was at Lakland AFB in Texas and from there he was assigned to Hunter AFB in Savannah. Carlton was trained as an aircraft rescue specialist. After about a year, he was then assigned to duty in what then was French Morocco near Casablanca. (He said he didn't see anyone that looked like Humphrey Bogart while he was there.) If he had been a ham at that time, Carlton could have operated "/CN" and worked the DX pileups. A year later, Carlton returned to Hunter AFB in Savannah where he finished up his military career.

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## The GARZETTE

**The GARZETTE** is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII format by email to [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net) or by posting a private message to Ike Chapman on the **GARS** conference of the Scientific Atlanta BBS (806-7372), then use the Save Attached save command, which will prompt you to upload your ASCII file. Art can be accepted in TIFF or PCX format on IBM formatted disk.

Contact the Editor for odd format compatibility, or other means of transfer. Deadline for article submissions is the first Thursday of each month.

### GARZETTE EDITOR

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The tedious and time consuming job of maintaining **The GARZETTE** mailing list is performed monthly by Membership Chairman Jack Herndon, KS4LS. Joe Biddle, AD4PZ assists with collating, stapling and mailing, and digitally scans in the photo and artwork seen regularly in **The GARZETTE**.

Our thanks to them for all their help in producing **The GARZETTE**.

The GARS address is:

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## JOIN GARS

Membership dues for 1995-1996 are:

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships

\$35.00 for Family Memberships

Half price for seniors and students.

Dues reduced for mid-year additions, see membership application for details, or...

Call Jack Herndon, KS4LS at 995-0438  
for more information about joining GARS.

## GARS Monthly Club Meeting September 21, 1995 Minutes

In attendance:

President Howie Gould, W4NVF;  
Vice President Charles Osborne,  
KD4QFD; Secretary Ike Chapman,  
KE4GYM; Treasurer Charles Evans,  
WA4QYY; Activities Manager David  
Adcock, KA4KKF

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 local time by President Gould, W4NVF at Captain Billy's Seafood House in Duluth.

All visitors and club members were invited to introduce themselves. A total of 50 people signed the attendance log at the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes for the August meeting as published in the **GARZETTE**. The motion was agreed to without opposition.

Charles Evans, WA4QYY gave the treasurers report which was approved as read.

David Adcock, KA4KKF discussed upcoming activities for the Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) on October 21 and 22.

Howie reported that permission had been granted by the County Public Works Department to erect a security fence at the Lanier Mountain repeater site in Snellville. This matter has been put on hold by the executive committee until testing at the new Bogan Road site can be completed.

The meeting was then turned over to Don Button, AJ1T who gave a program on the data from a study he had conducted of topographic maps of Gwinnett County. This included the repeater sites at Oak Street, Lanier Mountain, Goshen Springs Road, and Bogan road. The program was concluded with the plan for the test to be

## GARS GROWS GREATLY BY GOLLY!

by Jack Herndon, KS4LS

Five new members were voted in at the September meeting!

Mark A. "Andy" Liakos, KF4DAO  
Richard Sigsworth, KE4VWM  
Neil Foster, KC4MJ  
Terry Cantrell, WA4GPA

Associate Member  
Anna Golden

Welcome these new members at the next club meeting or on the air! -ED

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conducted on Saturday, September 23.

Charles Robison, AD4MI presented Ike Chapman, KE4GYM with the GARS Challenge Participation Challenge certificate.

Ike, standing in for Jack Herndon, KS4LS, presented five new applications for membership. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applications as presented for GARS membership. The motion was agreed to without opposition.

The new GARS members are: Anna Golden, associate; Mark A. (Andy) Liakos, KF4DAO; Richard G. Sigsworth, KE4VWM; Neil Foster, KC4MJ; and Terry Cantrell, WA4GPA.

Cheryl McClure reported on Rookie Radio happenings.

Jim Baker, KR4XY won the drawing for the Ham Radio Outlet Gift Certificate.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00 local time by President Gould.

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# CW, MODE OF CHOICE PART 3

by Duane Hanson, KD4KCR

This is the 3rd installment of a 4 part series on CW, intended help you feel more comfortable using the CW portion of the bands. First we covered a little history on the origin of CW and how to get started by answering another ham's CQ. Then we covered tips and tricks on calling CQ, and discussed many of the abbreviations and shorthand commonly used in CW. This month we will cover more CW shorthand, and tips and tricks of DX CW contact.

Last month, someone just answered your first CQ. You gave him his signal report, and let him know you only got his call partially (OX1)?

Getting back to your the "on-the-air" QSO, you hear:

KD4KCR DE OXIAB OXIAB BT TU DUANE ES UR RST 449 BT OP HR FRED

FRED ES QTH GODTHEB, GREENLAND BT WX SUNNY ES TEMP 2 C. RIG IS

KNWD TS450S ES ANT IS 40 MTR QUAD AT 30 MTRS. TNX FER FB QSO 73

ES GUD DX AR KD4KCR DE OXIAB SK

Now what do I make of that? Well, that time I got his call ok and some addi-

tional info. I got his polite TU and my name, confirming that he had copied that ok. ES means "and", and UR means "your". Your signal report of 449 means he is having some difficulty copying you, even though you are registering a little more on his "S" meter. HR means "here" and his QTH is "Greenland". His weather WX is "sunny" and temperature TEMP is 2 degrees C centigrade. Be prepared to convert your Fahrenheit reading so you can give him a WX report in terms that he will understand.

You know that he is running a Kenwood KNWD TS 450 S and his ANT antenna is a 40 meter quad, 30 meters high. He then says TNX "thanks" - FER "for" FB - "fine or fine business" - QSO "conversation" - 73 "best regards" - ES "and" - GUD "good" - DX "DX hunting. Then he sends AR "this is the last of this transmission with call signs to follow", your callsign - DE - his callsign - SK "I do not plan on replying to what you will send next, end of his part of the contact."

Then I send:

RR TKS FRED FER RPT BT WX HR RAIN ES TEMP 20 C. RIG HR IS YAESU

FT 900 ES ANT IS CTR FED ZEPP AT 15 MTRS BT U HV A GREAT DAY ES

HPE CU AGN IY SN 73 AR OXIAB DE KD4KCR SK

A few new things here, RR means roger which means I had no trouble copying all that was sent. It basically means the same as SLD CPY or "solid copy". Note here that if I do not have solid copy, I don't send R. It sounds real funny if I send R and then ask him to repeat his name! I thanked him for the report and told him what my weather was like and what kind of rig I was using. My antenna is a center fed zep and is at about 45 feet which I quickly just divided by 3 to give the approximate height in meters. I told him to HV "have a great day" - HPE "hope" to - CU "see you" - AGN "again" - IY "very" - SN "soon" and then gave the normal ending.

Well, you can log that one in the book and listen for someone else to call for a few seconds. Nothing heard, you can call CQ all over again, but this time you might want to only send CQ once or twice and your call only once or twice, as there may have been someone listening to your conversation with Fred who may know most of the particulars.

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## Contact GARS COMMITTEES, cont'd

### OFFICERS 1995-1996

President:	W4NVF	Howard Gould	921-8362
Vice Pres:	KD4QFD	Larry Osborne	381-5611
Secretary:	KE4GYM	Ike Chapman	339-8123
Treasurer:	WA4QYY	Charles Evans	448-0930
Activities:	KA4KKF	David Adcock	963-5767

### COMMITTEES

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Trustee:	KO4ZS	Paul Bennett	206-0215
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#### Control Operators:

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KS4LS Jack Herndon 995-0438

AD4PZ Joe Biddle 963-4316

KE4GYM Ike Chapman 339-8123

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KA9UIE Steve Idler 513-0428

#### HF/VHF/UHF Awards Manager:

KE4GGP Don Ennest 923-4851

#### DXCC Awards Checker:

AF4Y Frank Deak 978-6546

CW, Mode of Choice  
(continued from page 3)

You may hear someone call Fred now, after all, he is rare DX - but that would be bad operating procedure. You initiated the call, so unless you sign *CL* after your call the frequency is still yours to make more calls on. If someone wants to chat with Fred, the polite thing to do would be to call me and ask me if I minded them calling Fred, and then move him to another frequency. If someone was to be so kind as to ask me, I would be more than happy to give them a shot at Fred. It is very important to listen carefully to find out who is initiating calls and contact them to use the frequency.

A DX contact is very formal most of the time, and very short most of the time. It is best to get the essentials out of the way in a timely manner and then listen for indications that the DX station wants to chew the rag (prattle on endlessly) or move on quickly to the next contact. Remember, the DX station may not speak English, and know only enough to make the contact. Even if he wants to stick around and chat, keep the conversation pretty generic with very commonly used English words, or follow his lead.

I have had DX Contacts that went like this:

HIS *CQ DX DE ZD7ABC K*  
MINE *DE KD4KCR KN*  
HIS *KD4KCR TU 5NN KN*  
MINE *TU 5NN 73 ZD7ABC DE*  
*KD4KCR SK*  
HIS *TU QRZ?*

I could tell by his reply that this contact was to be short and sweet, so I responded accordingly. He gave me the essential information (signal report and my call) and I gave him his signal report and his call so he would know that I had the right station. He then thanked me again and asked if there was anyone calling him, ready for the next contact.

Also, while talking about working DX stations, many of these stations work split. What this means is that the station is listening on one frequency and transmitting on another. A good rule of thumb is if he is working split, he will be listening 5 to 10 kHz up from where you hear him. To work him I need to set my

VFO-A to the freq. that I hear him on, press the VFO switch to go to VFO-B and tune 5-10 kHz up or till I find the center of the pileup, hit the VFO switch again to go back to his transmitting freq. and hit my SPLIT button. Now when he says *QRZ?* I can call him on VFO-B automatically. By listening carefully he may say *QSY 10U* which would indicate that he is listening 10 kHz up.

This sounds complicated, but it really helps keep the frequency that the DX station is heard on clear, or relatively clear of QRM.

Next month, making interstate contacts, and CW roundtables.



## PACKET NET

Don't miss the KD6CLO packet net, Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the *GARS* 147.075+ repeater.

Geared toward all levels of packet expertise, this net is a great place to get all your packet questions answered.

Join us for an interesting roundtable discussion on modern packet radio techniques. ♦

3-96

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James  
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The Presidents Pen  
(continued from page 1)

While we usher in a new Editor, we need to remember the old one who is still in the background helping the new one get established. He has been a pillar of support for this club in many ways. He still is working hard to see that a transition takes place so the new Editor is off to the best possible start he can get. Thanks Dean, AD4OD for your continued support and all the members and myself wish you the best in your new position which you will be undertaking over the next few months.

The Bogan Rd experiment went off quite well and Don, AJ1T did a bang up job of coordinating all the people who were out there giving us signal reports. The end result is that it is going to be a great site for further expansion to the North, NE, NW with some slight gain to the South over what we have from Lawrenceville. The members deep into the southern regions of the county would not benefit that much more from the Bogan Rd site but would gain considerable strength from the Lanier mountain site in Snellville. That is why it is important we work on both sites together. Don will have more input on this at the club meeting in October.

I am pleased to say that the membership is going strong, we picked up some more new members at the last meeting and we want to welcome them aboard to the *GARS* and hope that they find our club friendly, helpful, and informative for their remaining membership term which ends April 1, 1996.

I guess David, KA4KKF our Activities Manager has primed everyone for the next activity which will be with the Cub Scouts of Dacula on October 21 and the Girl Scouts on Oct. 21. Both of these events will need more volunteers, so please let David know you will attend. It is important that we don't lay the burden of these outside activities on the shoulders of a chosen few.

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**Pickett's List**

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

In the last year or so, I have heard more and more non-ham terminology creeping into the ham bands. This is particularly true of two meters and two meter repeaters. I have heard other hams bringing some of this terminology to the attention of those who use it but for the most part I had tried to ignore the situation.

Recently a good ham friend and I were talking about this problem and he pointed out that someone had to try and keep such terminology from proliferating or else newer licensees would think that it was acceptable operating practice. Interestingly enough, when I did become active in addressing this situation, one of the new hams that I talked to actually said to me "but I hear other hams using these terms".

I am trying to conduct my crusade off of the air either by phone or by mail. I have discussed these terms with several hams on the HF bands where the general listening public is not involved.

Unfortunately all of the new hams that I hear using these terms will not read the *GARZETTE*, but many will and perhaps other newsletters will chose to publish this list of terminology not normally considered acceptable in the ham bands. I am sure this list is not all inclusive, but represents a compilation during the last two or three weeks.

Here is "Pickett's List" of terminology that I consider inappropriate on the ham bands. There are also a number of four letter words that are considered profanity in many communities that I consider inappropriate for use on the ham bands.

"Radio Check"  
"Comeback"  
"I Heard That"  
"10-4" (or any 10 codes)  
"Goback"  
"In the Mobile"  
"Flip Flop" or "Flip Side"  
"Channel"

"Making The Trip"  
"Ratchetjaw"  
"Good Buddy"  
"Comeback"  
"Walkin on You"  
"Super Slab"  
"Kicker"

There has also been some discussion recently regarding the use of the "Q" signals on the phone bands. I am informed that at least one ARRL publication suggests that this is not an appropriate use of the "Q" signs. These codes were designed originally to facilitate commercial telegraphers and reduce the number of characters required to communicate commonly used questions and responses. If you listen to some conversations, you will quickly tire of hearing the term "QSL". This term is used more than the other over used phrase "Roger" to acknowledge a transmission.

With current technology, most voice communications are so clear that plain English is more than adequate to communicate any thought quite clearly. This is especially true of two meter FM repeaters where near commercial high fidelity quality is normally the case. Enunciating phonetics in delivering one's call sign is usually not required. Obviously there are letters of the alphabet that do sound alike and some clarification may be required depending on the timbre of one's voice or the receiving environment that a station may be operating in at the time.

If you ever have a question as to what may be appropriate language to use during a phone contact on the amateur radio frequencies, a good rule of thumb is to use language that your English teacher would find acceptable and that you would use in front of your grandchildren.

If you have other phrases that you would like to add to this list, drop me a note, catch me on the GARS repeater, connect to me on 145.03 or send me email at srg82a@prodigy.com.



**The President's Pen**  
(continued from page 4)

We had a good turnout at the last meeting. If you haven't had a chance to attend one of our meetings you are missing out on a lot of fun and good food. Please make an effort to drop by at this month's meeting and say hello to some of your friends who would like to see you. You notice I said friends and that's what we all are here in GARS. We want to help each other in any way we can and there is no room for doom and gloom in the GARS.

Well it's time to say goodbye for another month and I hope that this *GARZETTE* finds everyone in good health, prosperous, and having a lot of fun with the hobby. If there is anything you need, don't hesitate to call me. See you at Captain Billy's Fish House.

73

Howie W4NWF

A NOT VERY FUNNY PRODUCTION

❖❖❖

## Ham Of The Month

(continued from page 1)

All of the military time in Georgia was very fortunate since Carlton had gotten married just before he went into the service. He and Betty have now been married for more than 38 years. Like being born and raised and living in the same place all these years, another rare situation these days.

Following his military service, Carlton went to work for Bill Davidson Buick where he is still employed (another rare circumstance).

9/96

Carlton has a habit if hanging in there through thick and thin and I would say demonstrates the highest levels of dependability.

Carlton says he has done everything that you can do in an automobile dealership except sell cars. He is presently in the parts department and responsible for seeing that the mechanics get what they need to get their jobs done.

In the early '70's Carlton got interested in Citizen's Band radio which had been around since 1958 but was just really taking off. He joined a club in Duluth and met a number of really fine people. About ten of them decided to get their Amateur Licenses and enrolled in a class that was being offered. Carlton was involved in coaching baseball and softball and had to wait until the season was over before he could join a ham radio license class.

Carlton coached in the Dixie Youth League in four different decades..(another record I am sure).

Carlton finally joined a license class that was being offered by a boy scout organization in the Chamblee area. The instructor was Cal Neff, K4JSR who is known by many of the GARS members that have been in the Atlanta area for some time. Cal actually worked for Johnnie, W4WKP, at one time. (the writer talked to Cal at the recent Shelby Hamfest) In those days, the Novice license exam had to be administered by another licensed amateur and Cal administered the tests as a part of the license class.

Carlton said that he had heard that you should not stop the license

upgrade effort until you had your General Class ticket so three months later he went down to the FCC offices in Atlanta and passed his Technician Class written test. This written test was the same for both Generals and Technicians. Three months later Carlton went back down to the FCC offices and passed his 13 wpm Morse code test.

The first rig was a Yaesu FT-101EX. The antenna was a multi band dipole using a Murch Transmatch. The antenna was an early version of the G5RV. As you would assume of Carlton, he is still using the antenna today. Carlton was active on both CW and Phone during this time.

VHF activity had begun to really grow in Atlanta in the late '60s and early '70s with the activation of the Stone Mountain, Atlanta, Kennahoochie and K4CRY repeaters so Carlton became interested in that aspect of amateur radio also.

One of his early VHF rigs was an Icom IC215 12 channel crystal rig. Some of you may remember this as a nice high powered portable with a shoulder strap. Carlton joined the ARC and Stone Mountain (Alford Memorial) clubs. He later joined GARS which was a brand new club. He remembers one of the GARS members that got him involved was Dick Bledsoe, WD4OSR. Dick Still holds that call and is still employed with the Gwinnett Hospital System. GARS provided notable emergency communications services during bad weather. A number of members had four wheel drive vehicles. They could be depended on to provide transportation to hospital personal when the weather was extremely bad.

By the early '80s, Carlton had a Kenwood TS-700A all mode rig as his base 2 meter station. He had just acquired a Heath SB220 amplifier and only used it for a short time. He had traded his Yaesu FT-101EX for an FT-301 and later traded the TS-700 for the new Yaesu FT-227. This made a very nice looking station.

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**Sharon Adcock**  
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(continued on page 8)



**Ham Of The Month**

(continued from page 6)

The cases are all black and the HF and VHF rigs match. As you would imagine, Carlton is still using this equipment.

A veritable antenna farm had been growing in Carlton's yard and included beams for both HF and 6 meters. Carlton had a very interesting tower. He called it a "Dukes Mixture". It was made out of a number of sections of homebrew tower and two sections of commercial tower from two different manufacturers. He put the tower up in 1978 and "surprise, surprise" he is still using it.

Carlton got his advanced class license in 1981 and kept his old call sign. He said he was not sure what sparked his interest but he started working on his CW in 1982 thinking that he would go ahead and upgrade to extra. For some reason he got distracted and while he kept most of his equipment and antennas, really did not operate much for the next nine or ten years.

Sometime in 1992, Carlton decided to put an old HT and a small linear amplifier for 2 meters in his car. He had never lost complete interest in amateur radio and actually warmed up his equipment and got on the air from time to time. He still had all of his equipment with the exception of the Heath linear and he had an old Yaesu FT227RB "Memorizer" for a 2 meter rig. One day when he was at work, he was tuning around and wound up talking to one of the great ambassadors for ham radio, Johnny Fearon, W4WKP. As many of you know, Johnny never forgets a name or a call and he proceeded to welcome Carlton back to active operation. He invited Carlton to come to some GARS events and Carlton joined the club again.

This was a fortunate circumstance for GARS. Carlton was in possession of a portable tower that he had gotten through one of his early ham acquaintances, Charles, W4WFK. Charles' father had been a ham (became a silent key while driving to the Jacksonville Hamfest). Charles' father had a portable tower that had

been damaged in a wind storm and Carlton decided that he could do something with it. One day soon after he joined GARS, Carlton heard Bill, KN4N, talking about how nice it would be for GARS to have a portable tower to use for Field Day and ham radio demonstrations. Carlton decided this was the chance to make his wife happy and get the damaged tower out of his back yard.

In a great example of team work, the tower was completely refurbished by a GARS team headed up by Larry, KD4QFD. His primary assistance came from Frank, AF4Y, Marty, KE4MLH, and David, KE4REB (and Carlton). Many others assisted including Cheryl, AE4HN (she was KE4JKM back then), Joe, AD4PZ and Bev, KE4VDI. There were others and their accomplishments have been recorded in earlier GARZETTE articles. If you have not seen this work of art, it is something to behold and GARS not only gets a lot of utility from it, we also get a lot of visibility from it.

When I asked Carlton what he had planned for the future in ham radio he said that the first thing he needed to do was reduce the number of HF rigs. He has the Yaesu 301, a TS-830S that he got for the WARC bands when he became active again and he succumbed to the dreaded hamfest syndrome and picked up a brand new Icom IC-736 at the Atlanta Hamfest. (now maybe he can use that 6 meter beam that he has had for so long). Carlton would like to give the TS-830S and nice new home.

His next project is to take his tower down and completely refurbish it. Through 20 years of good old scrounging he has acquired some sections of Rohn tower and he would like to put the tower back up without the homemade sections. As most of you know, Carlton really likes to rag chew and on HF he likes to rag chew DX so he wants to be ready when the sun spots start picking up here in the near future. Someone recently told Carlton that he had worked some HF DX that day. Carlton responded that his DX for the day was Sugar Hill, Suwanee, Lawrenceville and Duluth.

Carlton is interested in promoting the GARS Challenge and is thinking about being an informal net control once a week to help club members achieve the various certificates that are available. If you have not met Carlton, be sure and look him up at the next GARS event. We are fortunate to have members like Carlton who are willing to get involved and give their time to help amateur radio "be all that it can be".

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**GARS To Work  
JOTA**

by David Adcock, KA4KKF

On the weekend of the October 21 and 22 the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will hold their annual Jamobree On The Air (JOTA). GARS will work with the scouts at two separate locations on that weekend.

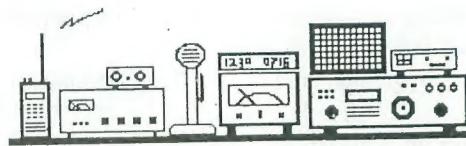
GARS will be working with the Boy Scouts in Dacula on both Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22. Rick Morris, KD4VOJ is working with the Scouts to organize this event. The GARS portable tower will be set up at the Dacula Methodist Church with operating hours on Saturday from 0900 to 1700 local time and on Sunday from 1230 to 1700 local time. Pickett Cummins, AD4S has volunteered the use of an HF station and operation of a VHF station is also planned.

On Saturday, October 21 the Girl Scouts will be holding an exposition at the Gwinnett Civic Center with JOTA as one event during the exposition. Rick Darby, KE4NJK and Gwen Darby, KE4PWU are setting up a table at the event with the Northeast Georgia Radio Club from Jefferson. GARS will also set up a table and work the group from Jefferson to promote amateur radio. Plans for operation of a VHF station and HF station (if possible) are being made.

Volunteers are needed for both events, if interested please contact David Adcock at 963-5767.

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# This Old Shack



## HT's in the Shack

The purpose of this column will be to pass along useful information to the ham who may be wanting to start, upgrade or just maintain their ham shacks. Some ham shacks may only consist of a HandieTalkie while others may have thousands of dollars invested. Everyone has their own idea of what might be the ultimate ham shack configuration.

Is your shack in a dedicated room in your house or on the kitchen table? Could it be the armrest of your favorite recliner or easychair? How about a roomy building out back? Is it conveniently located? Does it protect your equipment from damage? How is it powered? In order to make monitoring and transmissions more pleasurable and less burdensome these are some of the factors to be considered.

The operating position is where we presume that most of our communications will happen from. When we look at our collection of radio equipment, computers, or gadgets of all sorts, we notice that each piece of equipment is blessed with a barrage of buttons, knobs, and displays. We also notice how easily and accessible that each piece of equipment is to reach and to make adjustments, or do we?

Automobile manufacturers stress in their advertisements that their controls are within easy reach and can be found by touch alone. Of course this might be how we would like to see our station and accessories arranged some day. So we move things here and there, we move this and that to get a winning combination that pleases us.....for the time being anyway.

Your station may consist of only an HT. Some stations consisting of only a Handie Talkie might seem easy enough to layout. But to find that just right position on your desk, on your countertop,

by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

windowsill or easychair may be elusive. For this episode we'll just look at....."Handie Talkies in the Ham Shack".

From what I've observed, most people like to operate and stand their HT in the upright position, after all the manufacturers oriented all those knobs and buttons that way. Look at your HT! It's shape is rectangular and usually is in two parts consisting of a main unit/transceiver and the battery. One problem with this is that the HT lends itself to falling over, and each time I hear mine fall over I wonder if that will be the time I'll need to send it to the repair shop. Of course if they designed the body style like a pyramid it would have a hard time falling over, though it'd be a bit tough to carry in your shirt pocket.

Therefore with just a little planning and very little or no cost, you can outfit your HT with a safe environment that will protect your investment that is conveniently located and easy to operate.

Another way I've seen HT's secured is with commercially available holders made of nice hardwoods and colored plastics. These are simply bases that the HT slips into that have wide bottom platforms for stability. You can also use a  $\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2''$  piece of metal or plastic, drill holes at each end, slip through two screws and a couple of  $\frac{1}{4}''$  spacers then secure it anywhere you would like and hang your HT on it with the belt clip.

Another way you may secure your HT is with the fastener - Velcro. Of course Velcro is a brand name well known for the fastener with "hooks and loops". But before you go securing your expensive HT to your refrigerator, windowsill or the bumper of your car, keep in mind there are different grades of "hook-n-loop" fasteners. Most of what

we see is a lower grade which is all right for light applications, but there are far better one's too, including Mil-Spec grades. One type I use is called "head-n-head", called this because each side of this fastener looks like the head of a pin. This kind will hold small speakers to a wall. I use it to hold my external modem to the side of my console rather than to fabricate a bracket. One good way to use this type is to put one side on the bottom of your handheld unit and the other side to different places you normally set your HT. You won't have to worry about having to yell "timber" anymore as you might have when the HT took a fall.

Another holder is the base that you slide the HT into that also charges your battery. Although these cost a bit more, after you factor in the built-in power supply/charger, it's not too bad.

Power for your HT may come from wall transformers and the automotive cigarette lighters, to solar and drop-in chargers. When each is properly used will adequately power your HT to it's full.....'potential'. haha!

When selecting power supplies for operating or charging your HT, a couple of things must be considered. Your units voltage and current requirements must be met and not exceeded or as the manufacturer states: "Damage may occur". The YAESU FT-470 for example has no 'on-unit' power receptacle therefore you can not apply power directly to the unit. You must charge the battery with a wall charger using the micro-jack on the battery case. You could also purchase a battery eliminator which is a battery case with a 12v and 7.6v regulator inside that attaches to the bottom of your HT. The battery in turn attaches to the bottom of that. When power (12v) comes into the eliminator it provides 12v to the HT and

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

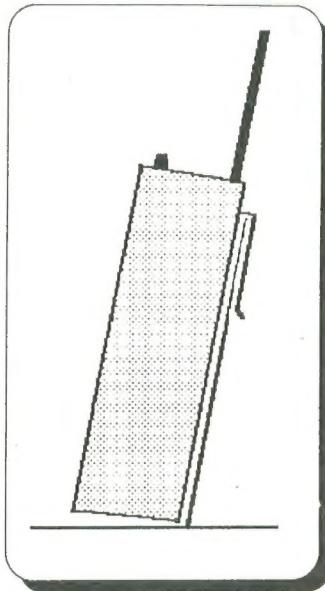
7.6v to the battery for charging. But that's just one situation, there are all kinds of unique and challenging configurations you can try. But make sure the power supply you use is regulated and filtered if you intend to operate your HT from it else you may end up with HUM on your audio.

Audio for most HT's is quite limited. Certainly physical size is a factor whether it's the units internal speaker or the speaker in the lapel microphone. This is easily overcome by a larger external speaker. You can drive a number of reasonably sized speakers with the HT, but one that works real well and doesn't take a lot of drive from the HT is an amplified speaker. The amplified speaker is available just about everywhere and some are self powered so you can take them anywhere too. Another useful audio tool is a device that takes audio from portable CD/tape players allowing you to amplify the audio through any cassette player. Whether it's your car stereo, home stereo or a boom box, you'll make your HT sound like a full blown rig plus some.

Well this concludes the first installment in a series of hints and construction tips for "This Old Shack". Next month we'll look at desk and shelf arrangements. I would like to invite everyone to pass along any ideas or construction tips you may on anything that strives for the betterment of the Amateur Radio Ham Shack.

Send ideas to: Joe Biddle on the Scientific Atlanta BBS or [jbiddle@lanier.com](mailto:jbiddle@lanier.com) or phone 963-4316

#### This Old Shack - Tip of the Month



When I use my Handie Talkie in tabletop fashion, I use one of those real cheap metal bookends. Though I bent mine backward about 20 degrees to give it that "tilt up" appeal, it holds the HT very well and keeps it from taking a tumble in any direction. These holders come in all sizes and colors therefore they are ideal to accommodate HT's of all sorts too.



You and your family are invited to join the GARS and Alford Memorial Club Members for a Holiday Celebration of "A Ham Radio Christmas" at the Bethesda Park Sr. Center Friday, December 15, 1995 from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

A traditional holiday buffet dinner will be served from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Dinner reservations must be received no later than November 30th. Mail reservation form below with checks payable to GARS in the amount of \$10.00 per person to: GARS, P. O. Box 88, Lilburn, GA 30226.**

Reservations For:  
Print Names & Call Signs

Bethesda Park Sr. Center is located on Ronald Reagan Parkway, 2nd exit from Pleasant Hill Road.

## GARS

### Ham Of The Year

by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

It's time once again to consider nominations for the GARS Ham of the Year. This will be the second year of this award, last year's winner was Duane Hanson, KD4KCR. The winner is awarded a plaque inscribed with his/her name. You can nominate someone for this award by giving you nomination to any member of the GARS executive committee. Nominations must be received by the end of the November club meeting. The person nominated for this award should meet the qualifications listed below:

The GARS Ham of the Year should be someone who has exhibited devotion, dedication, and meritorious service to and on behalf of the GARS and amateur radio, and has contributed greatly to the advancement of the GARS and amateur radio during the past year.

The award is decided by vote of the GARS executive committee based on nominations received from the membership. All members of the executive committee are excluded from consideration for this award.

# Rookie Radio Notes

by Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

Cooler weather at last! Now it's time for radio demonstrations, antenna workshops and radio kit building classes. Listen up rookies! These radio demonstrations may be targeted to raising awareness of amateur radio in the general public, but it's also a great opportunity for newly licensed hams to take a closer look at various facets of our hobby such as HF and packet. Take every opportunity to attend these events and your knowledge will grow rapidly. I made my first HF contacts on phone and CW at these events and it's something I will never forget. Check it out!

It's time again for an antenna building class. In the past we have focused on wire antennas because they can usually be made in just a couple of hours. It's okay if you want to work on something else, but just be aware that you probably won't have time to go from start to finish. Antenna building instructions can be found in the ARRL Antenna book or back issues of CQ or QST. It's a great learning experience and lots of fun. Call me if you want to sign up (995-5159). I will check with Larry (KD4QFD), Vice

President of the club and leader of our past antenna classes, and pick a date. Thanks Larry!

This is the time of year that the club gets very active. Tune in to the Net every Tuesday night at 8 PM and get up to the minute information about club activities. Don't miss out on the fun.



## HT Saves Ham's Life

ARRL Bulletin

ZCZC AX28  
 QST de W1AW  
 Special Bulletin 58 ARLX058  
 >From ARRL Headquarters  
 Newington CT September 28, 1995  
 To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX058  
 ARLX058 HT saves ham's life

Amateur Radio has been credited with saving the life of a shooting victim.

On Monday, September 25, 40-year old Rory Clark, KD6RKL, of Citrus Heights, a Sacramento suburb, was shot while standing at a bank automatic teller machine. Using his hand-held transceiver, he called for help on a local repeater. The repeater owner and operator, Chris Huber, N6ICW, was listening and autopatched the call to 911, according to ARRL Sacramento Valley Pub-

lic Information Officer John Arnot, KD6SSZ.

Huber helped Clark in passing information to the "911" operator about his location, condition, and suspects. This assistance, and the ability to contact a listening ham operator on the spot "saved Rory's life," in the words of local authorities.

The story was covered by all three television network affiliate stations, which focused not only on the crime and victim, but also on Clark's ability to call for help with his hand-held.

Huber was interviewed by two of the three TV stations. One of the TV stations interviewed a sales clerk at the local Amateur Radio retail outlet, The Radio Place, about the positive aspects of ham radio. The taped conversation between Clark, Huber, and the "911" operator was played on the news broadcasts.

Local hams rushed to his and his family's assistance, and continue to be of support, Arnot said. Among them was Jim Rosima, KD6SSW, who took Clark's family to the hospital after the incident.

Rory Clark is in critical condition but is expected to live. He was shot once with a rifle from behind. Authorities attribute his survival to his call for help via ham radio. He is in Sutter Roseville Hospital.

NNNN  
 /EX



### GARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (SHORTER FORM)

Amateur Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work-Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax-Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional members for Family Memberships

CALLSIGN -

CLASS (circle 1)

E A G T+ T N

BIRTH DATE

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Y/N

[Y] [N] [Y] [N]

E A G T+ T N

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

[Y] [N] [Y] [N]

E A G T+ T N

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

[Y] [N] [Y] [N]

Check Interests:

[ ] -Class instruction [ ] -Field Day operation [ ] -Repeater maintenance [ ] -GARS club booth staffing [ ] -Community events [ ] -Emergency [ ] -Administrative [ ] -Fund raisers  
 [ ] -Other

Dues: April 1 to Sept 30  
 \$25.00 for Individual Memberships  
 \$35.00 for Family Memberships

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31:  
 \$12.50 for Individual Membership  
 \$17.50 for Family Memberships

From Jan 1 to March 31:  
 \$6.25 for Individual Membership  
 \$8.75 for Family Memberships

Type of membership: [ ] -Individual ARRL Member?  
 [ ] -Family Life?  
 Half price dues available for seniors and students.

Y/N  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Mail your completed application with check made out to GARS to: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 88 Lilburn, Ga 30226

## METRO AREA TEST SESSIONS

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803  
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758  
Roswell ARRL-VEC St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710  
First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn. Mtn. CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday - 2:30PM - N Atlanta ARRL-VEC Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142  
Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025  
United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday GARS W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn  
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362 Headphones!

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

Oct	14	Hamfest - Augusta, GA
Oct	14	Hamfest - Waycross, GA
	28-29	Hamfest - Chattanooga, TN

?=Date not confirmed. Several entries taken from SERA Journal.  
Georgia locations are **bold**, Nearby locations are bold and underlined

## METRO AREA NETS AND ROUNDTABLES

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	<b>147.076+</b>	8:00PM	Info Want Swap & Sell <b>GARS</b>
Tue	<b>147.076+</b>	9:00PM	<b>CW Practice Net - GARS</b>
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	Packet Net - <b>GARS</b>
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC (1st Thurs = 9:30 )
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	<b>147.076+</b>	9:00PM	<b>CW Practice Net - GARS</b>
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri/Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sun	<b>147.076+</b>	8:00PM	<b>Gwinnett ARES Net</b>
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WV & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.



P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, Ga 30226



GARS meeting will be at CAPTAIN BILLY'S SEAFOOD, on Pleasant Hill Rd west of the Gwinnett Place Mall on the 3rd Thursday, October 19th, Pre-meeting fellowship buffet starts at 5:00, meeting begins at 7:00pm.